

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

MARCH 1997

MARCH HAPPENINGS

The 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage tour of Bay Saint Louis and Waveland will be presented on March 20th, the usual date of our Historical Society meeting. Since many of our members are serving as hostesses in these homes and gardens, you are therefore invited, in lieu of our usual meeting, to visit any or all of the following.

Bay St. Louis: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.:
Bay-Waveland Garden Center, 114 Leonhard Ave.

Gardens of Melinda and Jack Richard, 1320 Dunbar St. BSL
Home of Carter Church and Yancy Pogue, 406 N. Beach Blvd.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. William McCandless, Jr. 226 N. Beach Blvd.

Home of Charles Gray and Jim Plauche, Jr. 806 S. Beach Blvd.

Hospitality Center, 128 Main St.
11 to 4

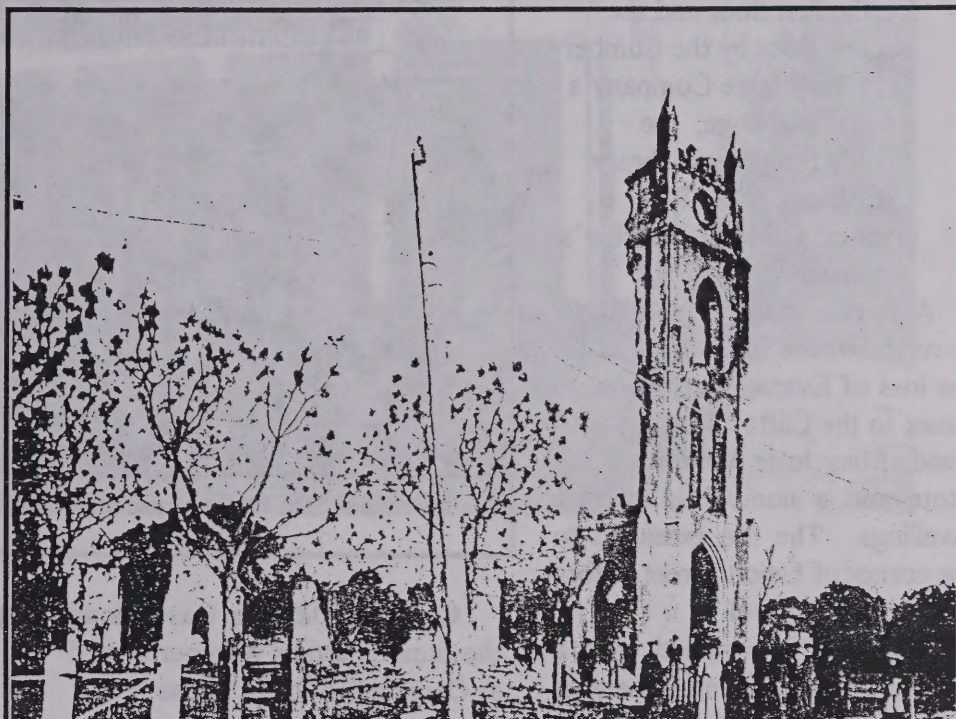
Waveland: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hernandez, 125 Bienville St.

Home of Mary Jane and Lem McCoy, 421 N. Beach Blvd.

Home of Russell Voochries, 138 S. Beach Blvd.

Home of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Crane, 426 S. Beach Blvd.



Ruins of Our Lady of the Gulf Church in 1907

THE GREAT FIRE

On November, 16, 1907, the *Sea Coast Echo* reported that a "conflagration originating from unknown causes destroyed a business portion of Bay St. Louis [on Front Street], including St. Joseph's Academy and Church of Our Lady of the Gulf. Losses will reach \$250,000."

The fire originated in the Bay

Mercantile Co. building on the ground floor of the Opera House owned by John Osoinach. Buildings burned and damaged:

Opera House

Clifton Hotel

Studio of Chas. A. Butler
Residence and Business of
A. Weinberg.

St. Joseph's Academy
Church of Our Lady of the Gulf

(Continued on page 2)

(FIRE, from page 1)

Catholic Rectory

H. Des Gillum Store

Thomas Reed Drug Store

Crescent Hotel ("Markey House")

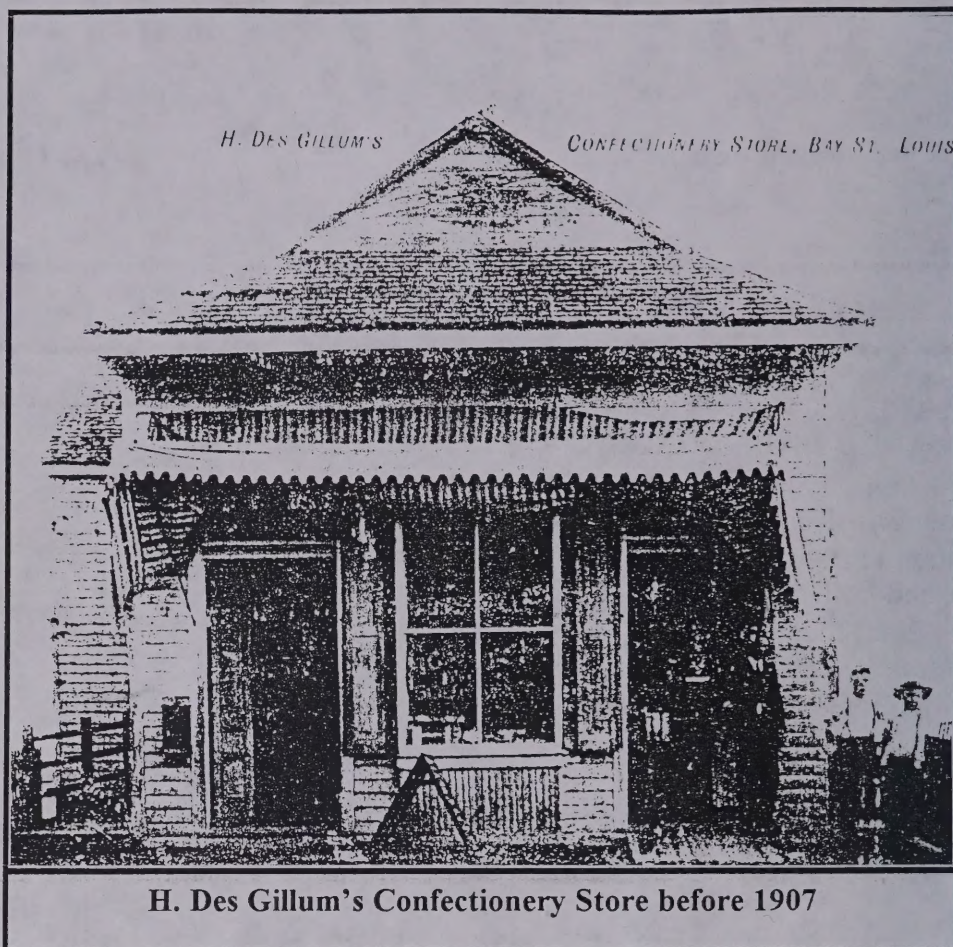
Also several buildings owned by Mrs. L. U. Planchet:

Planchet Building, occupied by Kosminsky and Layman on the first floor and the second floor by the Cumberland Telephone Company's central exchange; the King's Daughters Library; the offices of Dr. R. J. Turner; and Mrs. Planchet's residence.

A later report by the *Daily Record-Tribune* of Gulfport notes the loss of Evans Drug Store, an annex to the Clifton Hotel, a fruit stand, Miss Josie Welch's Book Store and a number of private dwellings. The fire extended to the corner of Union Street before it was under control.

"The Bay is supplied with a very poor fire fighting apparatus and still poorer system of water works," the newspaper reported. "It was only the wide sweep of open country between the bank and the Pickwick Hotel that kept the latter from going also."

The Opera House, recently built at a cost of \$12,000, was "said to be insured for about \$4,000," the report continues. "The Merchants Bank [which survived] was completed about six months ago of brick and cost \$10,000. The Convent consisted of several buildings worth in the neighborhood of \$18,000 to \$20,000. The Church ... and the rectory cost about \$20,000."



H. Des Gillum's Confectionery Store before 1907

Cecil B. DeMille was among the famous artists who performed at Osoinach's Opera house.

FIRE FIGHTERS

Independent Hope Hook and Ladder Fire Co. #8 issued invitations for their 23rd anniversary ball on April 15. At the ball, officers were elected: Wm. Ruhr, president; R. S. Knight, vice president; R. Attaway, foreman; J. J. Manieri, first assistant foreman; Louis Fayard, second assistant foreman; E. Murtagh, treasurer; Charles Chadwick, flag bearer; F. Fayard, banner bearer; J. P. Foster, engineer. (*Sea Coast Echo* July 29, 1893)

PROHIBITION ON THE BAY

Besides a thriving moonshine industry, Hancock County was noted for traffic in illegal alcohol, as reported in a Gulfport newspaper.

"On many a moonless night the speedboats of Al Capone's gangland empire unloaded on the banks of the Jourdan River their cases of bonded liquor which they had received from ships out in the Gulf beyond the three-mile limit. With their contraband aboard, the speedboats ran the gauntlet of the Coast Guard back through the waters of Bay St. Louis and disappeared into the mouth of the Jourdan River where they transferred to trucks on their way to thirsty customers in Chicago." (*The Daily Herald* 1958)



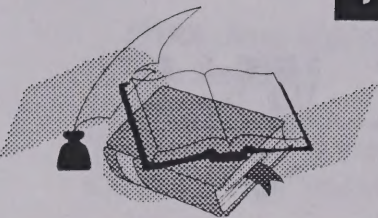
Beachwood Hall

806 South Beach Boulevard, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

Beachwood Hall is a Greek Revival, one and one half story frame dwelling with an undercut gallery, gabled roof and central entrance. It was built about 1840 by Dominique Gragnon on property from the Necaise land grant of 1813. A photograph of the house was published in *Along the Gulf* in 1894. At that time, it was the home of Lionel Adams of New Orleans and was described as having broad galleries, wide halls and large windows. The front windows raise from the floor to a height of 6 feet to allow for passing from the gallery into the front parlors and to allow for Gulf breezes to enter the house.

Its present owners have furnished the house with antiques and art, making it one of the outstanding beachfront homes presented this month during the 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage.

BULLETIN BOARD



COOKBOOK

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SENT IN RECIPES. WE STILL NEED LOTS MORE. I KNOW WE HAVE LOTS OF GOOD COOKS OUT THERE, SO GET THOSE RECIPES COPIED AND SEND THEM IN.



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO RETURNED THE PRE-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR 1997 DUES. WE HAD A TREMENDOUS RESPONSE. TO THOSE WHO HAVEN'T PAID, THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE ABOUT YOUR STATUS, CALL AND WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Powell
Marijane Curia
Coral Gaudet
Frances Crawley
Anne Diliberto
Charles a. Thomas
Gloria Berlette
Eileen Manning
Keith Karlson
Joan Gary
Joseph Pugliese
Alice McGee
Ashton Carver

COMPUTER CLASSES

We are planning another series of Computer Classes to be given the last week of March. We had many students in the first two groups. We are adding an Internet Users class with this series.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
WORD PROCESSING I
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
(MICROSOFT WORD)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
WORD PROCESSING II
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
(MICROSOFT WORD)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27
WORD PROCESSING III
3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
(MICROSOFT WORD)

THESE CLASSES REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 6 STUDENTS. CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 9 STUDENTS ONLY. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED ALONG WITH PRE-PAYMENT OF FEES. TUITION FOR EACH CLASS IS \$15.00 FOR MEMBERS (\$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS). THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS MONDAY, MARCH 24. IF WE DO NOT HAVE THE MINIMUM REQUIRED, CLASS WILL BE CANCELLED AND MONEY REFUNDED. ALL CLASS/STUDY MATERIALS WILL BE FURNISHED.

INTERNET USERS GUIDE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

WP I _____ WP II _____ WP III _____ INTERNET _____

MAIL TO H.C.H.S. P. O. BOX 312, BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUPPORTERS

WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT THAT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE GIVEN TO THE
HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



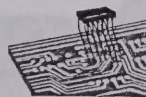
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